



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brenda Ulrich
media@bbcboston.org

Back Bay Chorale Presents
SERGEI RACHMANINOFF: "ALL-NIGHT VIGIL" (VESPERS)

The Back Bay Chorale, directed by Scott Allen Jarrett, performs Sergei Rachmaninoff's beloved *All-Night Vigil (Vespers)* on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. in Emmanuel Church, Boston, Massachusetts, and on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke in Portland, Maine. Tickets are available at www.bbcboston.org or by calling 617-648-3885.

The Back Bay Chorale is delighted to present Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil (Vespers)* twice in its 2010-2011 season, first at its home in Emmanuel Church, Boston and then a second time for the Chorale's debut performance in Portland, Maine. The **All-Night Vigil** (Russian: Всенощное бдение, *Vsenoshchnoe bdenie*), Opus 37, is an *a cappella* choral work written and premiered in 1915. It consists of settings of texts taken from the Russian Orthodox all-night vigil ceremony. The piece evokes both the original character of Russia's eastern orthodox church tradition, heavily influenced by the music of the Greek and Byzantine churches, as well as Western-style harmonizations of later secular Russian composers, all overlaid with the ripe harmonies and evocative tonal painting of the 19th-century Romantic era. Completed by Rachmaninoff in just two weeks, the piece was so well-received at its premiere that it was performed four more times that season due to public demand.

Concert Details

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

"All-Night Vigil" (Vespers) Opus 37 (1915)

Performed by the Back Bay Chorale
Scott Allen Jarrett *conducting*
Stefan Reed, tenor

Saturday, March 5, 2011, 8:00 P.M.

Pre-concert Lecture, 7:00 P.M. - Richard Dyer
Emmanuel Church, Boston, MA

Tickets: \$40, \$30, \$20 (\$5 student/senior discount)

Saturday, March 19, 2011, 8:00 P.M.

Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Portland, ME

The *Vespers* has been praised as Rachmaninoff's finest achievement and "the greatest musical achievement of the Russian Orthodox Church." It was one of Rachmaninoff's two favorite compositions, and the composer requested that one of its movements (the fifth) be sung at his funeral.

About the Back Bay Chorale

The Back Bay Chorale is a 110-member auditioned chorus drawing singers from the Greater Boston area. Dr. Scott Allen Jarrett has been the chorale's artistic director since 2004. From its inception, the BBC has had a commitment to share music in the community with repertoire that ranges from Baroque to contemporary in an annual subscription series. Musician, minister, and Larry Hill founded the Back Bay Chorale in 1973 at Boston's Church of the Covenant to create a musical ministry that would bring meaning to both singers and their audience. In the years since Hill's death in 1989, the chorale has grown in stature and is now regarded as one of Boston's premiere amateur choruses.